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U. S. CONGRESS.—In the Senate, yesterday, Secretary Stanton transmitted a reply to Mr. Powell's resolution in regard to military interference at the elections in Maryland, Delaware, Kentucky and Missouri. The Secretary states that no orders on the subject were issued from the Adjutant General's office; but that a telegram was sent from the office of the Provost Marshal General, directing the Provost Marshal of Maryland to furnish the necessary aid in carrying Gen. Schenck's orders "for preserving the purity of elections at the polls in Maryland." The bill to promote enlistments in the army was taken up. The second section awarding compensation to "loyal" owners for the wives and children of slaves taken into the service was withdrawn. The first section, freeing the wives and children of such slaves, was modified by substituting for the term wife, the words "the woman whom he treats and who is recognized as his wife" so as to obviate the apprehended difficulty in regard to there being any such legal relation among slaves.—The question was debated up to the hour of adjournment.

In the House of Representatives a resolution was passed directing the Secretary of War to require the Illinois Central, the Burlington and Missouri, and the Missouri and Mississippi Railway Companies to repay the money received for the transportation of troops over their respective roads, on the ground that those companies received donations of public lands on the express condition that they should carry the mails and troops of the United States free of charge. A resolution was agreed to, instructing the Committee of Ways and Means to enquire into the expediency of increasing the tariff on low grades of wool. A resolution was introduced calling upon the President and the Secretaries of War and State to furnish the names of all citizens confined in forts and prisons, as also of those who have not been tried and those who have been banished, &c.—It went over under the rule. The bill making appropriations for the Military and Naval Academies, with the Senate amendments, was agreed to. The Military Appropriation bill was passed.

The British steamer Styx, has returned to Halifax from a cruise in search of the Italian frigate Re Galantuomo. The Styx reports that on the 18th she spoke the brig Howard, who reported that on the afternoon of the 10th inst., in latitude 40, longitude 60, she saw a vessel of the description of the Re Galantuomo with main top-mast gone, running southeast. A northwest wind was blowing at the time, but the vessel showed no colors or signs of distress.

Forrest is reported to be organizing for a movement into West Tennessee; and he has obtained a large number of horses and is mounting his infantry.

In the Army of the Potomac great preparations are being made for the expected arrival of Lieutenant General Grant. An order has been issued from the U. S. War Department requiring that all men who have been transferred from their original regiments to others, for the purpose of completing their term of enlistment, be immediately returned to their original organizations. The sick are being removed from the army.

President Lincoln and Generals Sickles, Oglesby, and their staffs, and other officers, visited the fair in Washington, on Friday night in a body. They were there under the auspices of the Knights Templars. Grand Master B. B. French, introduced General Sickles, who made a brief speech. General Oglesby also spoke, and finally President Lincoln in reply to repeated calls, responded.

It is reported that Gen. Sigel, who has lately assumed command of the department of western Virginia, had a narrow escape from capture by the Confederates a few days since.—While at Martinsburg he rode outside of his picket lines, and just at that moment a force of two hundred Confederates rode between the General and his lines. Had they known of his presence they could, it is alleged, have captured him with ease.

Bands of Confederates, numbering in all five hundred men, have crossed to the north side of the Cumberland River, and on the 17th a few of them were encountered near Celina, Kentucky, by Hobson's (Federal) cavalry, which succeeded in killing and wounding several, and it is said, in capturing Colonel Hamilton their leader.

The Mazatlan Times, of March 5th, says, the French forces left Gaudalaja on February 24th, going toward Colona, and ere this a battle must have been fought with the national forces. The same paper says, commerce at Mazatlan is uninterrupted, but it seems to be the purpose of the French to effectually blockade all the ports south of Mazatlan.

It is announced that "all is quiet" in front of Chattanooga; although the quiet was somewhat disturbed by a dash over Taylor's Ridge, on Saturday last, by some eighty Confederate cavalry, who succeeded in carrying off certain obnoxious Union citizens.

In Western Virginia, it is rumored that a considerable force of Confederates have advanced towards New River, and it is believed that they design making an offensive demonstration in the direction of the Kanawha.

Admiral Dahlgren has again gone to Fortress Monroe, where it is expected he will receive the body of his son by the flag of truce boat, which is due there this afternoon.

It is said that an unusual number of garroters, horse thieves, and scoundrels of every description are now prowling about Baltimore and the surrounding country.

The damage caused by the Sioux outbreak in Minnesota, is estimated at over a million of dollars.

President Lincoln received, yesterday, an address from an association of working men in New York, to which he replied, by quoting his own remarks on labor and capital contained in one of his messages to the U. S. Congress and adding a few remarks, in which he said:—

"The most notable feature of a disturbance in your city last summer was the hanging of some working people by other working people. It should never be so. The strongest bond of human sympathy, outside of the family relation should be one uniting all working people, of all nations, and tongues and kindreds. Nor should this lead to a war upon property or the owners of property. Property is the fruit of labor; property is desirable; is a positive good in the world. That some should be rich shows that others may become rich; and hence is just encouragement to industry and enterprise. Let not him who is houseless pull down the house of another, but let him labor diligently and build one for himself; then by example assuring that his own shall be safe from violence when built."

The New York Herald says: "The approaching military campaign, which may perhaps already have commenced, will be the decisive one of the war. General Grant, as the leader of the Union hosts, has this great responsibility resting upon him. The contest will be a sanguinary and terrible one; but it will decide the fate of the country one way or the other. If General Grant be successful in this campaign the Union will be preserved. If he be defeated the most disastrous consequences will follow.—We shall see the currency destroyed, public confidence paralyzed, and civil war—the end of which no one can foretell—break out in the North."

The N. Y. Price Current of last Saturday says: "Meats have receded from two to four cents per pound on account of the decline in live stock, which fact must give as much satisfaction to many people of the middle class as it does to butchers. The idea that high prices of meat are beneficial to the butchers is fallacious, for while it diminishes consumption it increases the risk of the shopkeeper in preserving his meat."

At Port au Prince, in Hayti, on the 18th ult., there occurred a public execution. Eight negroes and negroes, were shot to death in the public square. They had been convicted of stealing, killing, cooking, and eating children. This fearful feast was held some fifteen miles in the interior.

An order has been issued by Gen. Banks to hold an election for delegates to a "Constitutional Convention in Louisiana" on the 18th inst. The Convention meets in New Orleans on the 6th of April. There are to be one hundred and fifty delegates. New Orleans will have sixty-three members.

The Federal enrolling officer last Monday morning commenced enrolling the slaves in Cambridge district, Md., preparatory to the draft, which, it is believed, will soon be ordered.

Maj. General Lewis Wallace yesterday took command at Baltimore.